



## A VALUABLE FRANCHISE

**The Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company Is Not on the Assessor's Books.**

**Neither Is Its Capital Stock Listed or Assessed by the State Board of Equalization.**

**It Is Stated Bonds of the Company Amounting to \$5,000,000 Have Been Floated.**

**This Franchise Is Estimated to Be Worth \$1,000,000 to the Promoters.**

The Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company has a million dollar franchise to use the streets of Chicago. It has \$25,000 of visible personal assets as constructed work. It is given out that bonds of the company to the amount of \$5,000,000 have just been placed, and that the money is in hand to go ahead with construction work. These bonds were sold at 90 cents, with 25 per cent of the amount of the bond in stock, as a bonus. Application for bonds and stock have been refused within the last few days, with the reply, "All sold."

The company has expensive offices in the Hookery. The company's construction work, cash in hand and franchise are all assessable, and yet—

The Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company is not on the Assessor's books. Neither is its capital stock listed or assessed by the State Board of Equalization.

The company owns a franchise to lay conduits to rent to other companies, and also to operate a complete telephone system in the city of Chicago.

The company was organized and the franchise got, it is believed, for the purpose of selling out to the Chicago Telephone Company, whose franchise will expire in four or five years. The effort to do this failed.

The Illinois Telephone and Telegraph Company began work by putting a seven foot tunnel in La Salle street. This tunnel now reaches from Monroe street to Washington or Randolph street. Work has been done at other points, but how much is not known. At Lake and State streets, at Dearborn and Van Buren and at Franklin and Adams streets shafts have been sunk and more or less work done.

At the City Hall it is estimated that the work done, which is of an expensive character, represents an investment of probably \$20,000.

In addition to this, the company has a cash deposit with the city of \$5,000. No assessment has been made of these assets.

The franchise gives the company all the rights which telephone companies require to do business in Chicago. This franchise is estimated to be worth \$1,000,000.

The schools are threatened with a reduction of \$2,000,000 of revenues. Unless the aggregate valuation in the city greatly exceeds \$300,000,000, the schools' educational fund will be deficient \$2,000,000 as compared with last year's educational tax.

The city library will be short \$70,000, as compared with last year's tax.

The city will have nearly \$1,500,000 less for corporate purposes than it had last year.

The sanitary district is likely to have its bond issue increased so that it can issue not less than \$2,500,000 of additional bonds. Its tax revenues will not be greatly changed from last year.

Cook County's revenues will be reduced, but how much there is no way of exactly knowing until the last school district in the county files its tax levy with the County Clerk.

The West Park Board and the West Town are likely to have their revenues reduced about 25 per cent below the legal limit. Lincoln Park and the South Park are likely to get all their levies called for.

This condition of things will be brought about unless County Clerk Knopf changes his most recently devised method of scaling down the taxes that must go in the 5 per cent limit.

It is now understood that the County Clerk will put all the taxes except State and school building taxes into the

5 per cent class and scale all of them down. This scaling down will not be done by reducing the legal limit rates of each taxing body. The actual levies will be scaled down.

This will be especially hurtful to the schools because instead of levying 2½ per cent for education, as might have been done, the levy is only for about 2 per cent.

"Pull up de North Side, boys, allies zusammen, pull, pull!"

Despite the frantic coaching of their leader, Inspector Max Heideheimer's tug of war team lost to Inspector Hartnett's men at the Palos Park picnic of the Carter Harrison League. Five inches—one inch for each minute of the contest—the Harrison street policemen pulled the "Burgomaster's Own" across the line before the judge's pistol gave them victory.

Two thousand Democrats, true blue Harrison men every one, followed the brand new banners of the league to Palos Park. "Bobby" Burke led the van of the army, which filled three long trains. Captain Farrell commanded the middle division and managed the games. The faithful rank and file, with their wives, sisters and sweethearts, supplied the harmony and sweetened the coffers of the "concessionaires."

"Bobby" Burke was proud of the crowd. The crowd in turn was full of admiration for the stout little leader. Dr. Howard S. Taylor, Fred Eldred, John C. Schubert, Edward Lahiff, Senator Joseph P. Mahoney, "Jimmy" Quinn, John J. Sloan and Thomas J. Webb all had front seats on the grass of the arena.

Captain P. J. Lavin's Stock Yards team won from Captain Shippy's South Chicago men in hollow fashion, grabbing five inches of a start at the pistol and holding it stubbornly until the end. The tug between Captain Luke Collier's City Hall detectives and Inspector Luke Kalas' team from the Fourth Division furnished the sensation of the afternoon. Kalas men sawed the rope four inches to the good before the plain clothes men settled to their work. Swaying back and forth the teams fought to the final pistol crack. Collier's men winning by barely two inches and a final desperate heave in the last five seconds of grace. The West Side firemen won from the South Side and the water department team from their rivals of the health department.

Alderman Honore Palmer headed the floor committee of the dancing pavilion on the program, but he failed to put in an appearance at the picnic grounds. Among those who made the journey to the park were: Alderman Charles Martin, Edward M. Carroll, John E. Owens, William E. Kent, James T. Roach, John P. Tansey, James W. Matthews, W. F. Quinn, John W. Gilden, D. J. McMahon, Walter J. Gibbons, Frank W. Solon, W. Lester Bodine, James A. Pugh, Andrew J. Lynch, Frank J. Ryan, John P. McGorty, D. F. Conner, Edward Prindiville, Alderman John H. Sullivan, Thomas F. Scully, Joseph T. J. McNally, Charles J. Voyle and Alderman Charles Werno.

The Hon. Aleck Jones is at it again. At the last election the people of Chicago, during a period of mental drowsiness, elected this gentleman to the Drainage Board. The people are not always asleep, but this nap has proven very costly. Says the Tribune:

"It is desirable that the 39th street intercepting sewer shall be completed as soon as possible. When it is in operation less sewage will be discharged



MR. WILLIAM A. PINKERTON,  
The World Famous Detective.

into the lake and more water into the drainage channel. But it is not apparent that any suit which the Drainage Board may bring against the city will hasten the completion of that work, unless the Board is able to direct the attention of the court to sources of revenue, at present unknown to the city, whence the money with which to rush the work on this only partially completed intercepting sewer can be obtained. It is generally understood that it is not an easy matter to squeeze blood out of a turnip. If the Drainage Board can accomplish that feat it may be able to squeeze out of the city treasury some money to be used for the completion of this work in 39th street. The city got the money with which it began the building of this sewer by mortgaging the revenues of the water office. It anticipated their collection by selling water certificates. It can finish the work in good season only by continuing to sell those certificates. But there is a question as to their legality. It may be passed on by the Supreme Court this coming winter in a case which originated in Joliet. Until this question shall have been settled in favor of the legality of these certificates the city will not be likely to find purchasers for new issues.

Therefore this Drainage Board suit serves no other purpose than to call public attention to the scandalous manner in which the Drainage Board combine is squandering the money voted them at the last election.

Corporation Counsel Walker said, in reference to this suit: "This is a political suit, pure and simple. We are mandamus to do something that we are now doing as fast as we can. Had President Jones been sincere he would have investigated before starting suit. He would have found that work is being rushed on the intercepting sewer."

The rule debarring men over 40 years old from serving on the West Park police force was abolished at the last meeting of the Park Commission, as far as old soldiers are concerned. The veterans of Cook County long have been fighting for recognition and their victory was complete.

A committee of twenty-five veterans, headed by Judge Tutthill, attended the meeting. Judge Tutthill acted as spokesman. The rules of the Board were suspended, and for several minutes the Judge spoke to the commissioners,

urging that the veterans deserve an opportunity to secure employment in the public service in preference to others. The commissioners at once changed the rule so that all soldiers who have been honorably discharged are now eligible for positions as policemen or other employment in the West Park system. Steps were taken toward the work for the establishment of small parks. Attorney Cole drew up a resolution which will be sent to the officials of the West Town. It provides for the issuance of \$1,000,000 4 per cent bonds and the spreading of a tax levy. The Board adopted a resolution agreeing to accept a Torrens certificate for all properties acquired by the Board for corporate purposes.

At a meeting of the officers and Board of Directors of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, it was decided unanimously at once to bring legal proceedings to compel the Chicago Telephone Company to reduce its maximum charge for instruments to \$125 a year, the rate fixed in the franchise under which the company is operating.

There were present at the meeting Martin B. Madden of the Western Stone Company, President; James H. Channon of H. Channon & Co., Vice President; John M. Cutler of the Elgin Watch Company, Secretary, and Directors W. B. Conkey, W. B. Conkey & Co.; J. Harry Selz, Selz, Schwab & Co.; William H. Rehm, National Brewing Co.; Charles A. Plamondon, A. Plamondon Manufacturing Co., and Bernard A. Eckhart, Eckhart & Swan Milling Co.

The resolutions adopted read as follows:

"Resolved, That Levy Mayer, general counsel for the association, be authorized and instructed to commence proceedings in the proper court along the lines suggested by Charles M. Walker, Corporation Counsel, in a recent opinion, to compel the Chicago Telephone Company to conform with the schedule of rates set forth in the ordinance passed by the City Council on Jan. 4, 1889, under which it is now operating; and be it further

Resolved, That if in Mr. Mayer's judgment the desired result can be accomplished more quickly by some other form of legal proceedings than that suggested by Mr. Walker he be requested to pursue that course and carry the

case to the court of last resort if necessary.

President Sablin, of the telephone company, takes the ground that the company is entitled to charge extra for the improved instruments, as they give a much better service than that afforded by the ones in use at the time the ordinance was passed. He says the company will furnish the old instruments at the old rates if subscribers desire, but that it must charge the higher price for the better 'phones.

More than \$300,000,000 should be added to the assessable personal property lists of Chicago by the assessment of the franchises of corporations. It is the plain duty of the State Board of Equalization to make this assessment. No other taxing body is conceded to have the power to assess franchises of corporations.

If the State Board can be got to do its duty more than \$5,000,000 would be collected in the form of taxes in Cook County from the corporations that dodge this amount of taxes on their franchises.

More than \$1,200,000 of this revenue would go to the public schools. The city's share would be more than \$1,000,000. The maintenance of the public schools and the cleaning of the streets and the improvement of the city will be dependent on this tax.

The question as to who will be chosen to succeed Charles G. Dawes as Comptroller of the Currency will remain an open one until fall, says the Washington correspondent of the Journal. About the only thing about it which can be predicted with certainty is that the appointment will be made by the President without regard to geography or Senatorial indorsements. This office, with its great responsibility, involving as it does the discreet and honest supervision of the vast national banking interests of the nation, the President has always claimed as his own prerogative. Talk of his accepting the recommendation of Senator Mason for the successor to Dawes is worse than idle. He would no more do so than he would appoint a Secretary of the Treasury on the indorsement of a professional crackman. He does not like Mason and he does not trust his judgment. Mr. McKinley has several men under consideration, but it is known that he has not made up his mind whom to appoint.

## A CARPET BAG CLERK

**The West Park System Has One in the Person of Its New Secretary.**

**He Moved from Woodlawn for the Purpose of Getting a New Job from Yates,**

**And Would Have Moved to the North Side If North Siders Wanted Him.**

**Reform Is Necessary Under the Present West Park Deal and Don't Forget It.**

Property-owners on the West Side would like to see a little reform of the Lincoln Park variety put into their own park system. The West Park Board also has a Secretary, and by the same token that decided the Lincoln Park secretarial post to be useless the West-Siders are wondering what the application would be to their own official. The two Park Boards are identical in form. Walter Fieldhouse, close friend to Gov. Yates and the Secretary of the Republican State Committee, is the Secretary of the West Park Board. He moved from Woodlawn to the West Side in order to become eligible to the position.

The showing made in the report of President Roach at the annual meeting of the Union Traction Company stockholders is merely another indication of the peculiar position in which that company finds itself as a result of its past financing operations. According to the testimony which the attorney of the company recently vouchsafed to the Board of Review the Union Traction Company has \$32,000,000 of capital stock. The probable value of this stock is indicated in the present report, which shows for the fiscal year ended June 30 a net income of \$158,575 and a surplus of \$12,650, after declaring a dividend of 1¼ per cent on the company's preferred stock.

The fact is that at its present capitalization the Union Traction Company's enormous capitalization has no tangible value whatever and is merely speculative, says the News. By its policy of building up company upon company and piling up a vast capitalization it has brought itself, in fact, to a situation where it needs franchise renewals, not on such terms as may be deemed fairest to both city and company, but on its own terms. It looks to the city to bolster up its intrinsically valueless stock by a gift of such privileges as will create a demand for its shares and enable it to continue the financing process. It remains to be seen how the city is to negotiate with a company that expects these favors, but is not in a condition to fulfill its obligations to the public.

The company has brought these conditions upon itself. Can it reasonably ask that the city disregard its own rights in the matter in order that the company may be helped out of its predicament?

The scheme to unite the North and West boulevard systems with that on the South Side seems likely to be successful. At a conference, attended by committees of the Drainage Board and West Park Commission and by engineers of the Pennsylvania, the Chicago Junction, and Terminal Transfer Railroad Companies, the three railroads were asked to unite to build the subway at Marshall boulevard and 31st street. Should the roads fail to agree it is expected they will submit a new proposition in ninety days. This subway has been an obstruction to the completion of the scheme, as nearly all the other work has been provided for.

One of the enlightened papers of New York has been following the bucolic labors of B. H. Coughlin with specialized interest. From its own source of information it is enabled to give the following interesting account of Ald. Coughlin's doings:

"For more than four weeks Mr. John has been working on a Colorado farm on the banks of Cheyenne creek. The farm is five acres small, but intense and intensive. Mr. John wears a brown Norfolk jacket, brown overalls, a pair

of neat cowhide shoes, a brown fedora hat from Carter Harrison's own block. "He milks the chickens, counts them before they are hatched, shears the cows, sets the sheep on the nest, leads the horse to water, and makes him drink; makes the goat browse where it is tethered, gives anti-fat to the stalled ox, says 'Boo!' to the geese, buys pigs in a poke, makes his hay while the sun shines, and catches weasels asleep."

"He lives in clover, kills two birds with one stone when he can't put salt on their tails, makes two bites of a cherry, puts the cart before the horse, goes all the way around Robin Hood's barn, acknowledges the corn, feels his oats, and knows beans."

"He takes the bull by the horns, gives the calf more rope, and waits till the cows come home. He lets the grass grow under his feet, carries a short horse soon, lets the cat out of the bag, and puts all his eggs in one basket. In short, there never was a more practical and ingenious farmer than this emigrant from Chicago's First Ward."

The first step on behalf of the city in opposing the suit of the Union Traction Company on the ninety-nine-year act will be taken by Corporation Counsel Walker. The city's legal adviser will begin the war which is to determine whether the people or the traction companies own the streets. The suit is expected to decide definitely the traction matters which have beset Chicago for the last four years. The points to be decided in the case are as follows:

Whether the franchises of the company expire in 1903.

Has the municipality the power to revoke the franchises of the company on the ground of breaking of contract?

Can the Council force a reduction of fares?

Has the city the right to force the issuance of a through system of transfers?

Is the old horse and dummy act valid?

What are the powers of the City Council in regard to traction matters?

Whether the city will file a demurrer to the bill of the Union Traction Company or merely a formal answer has not yet been decided upon. As the matter will be fought through the United States Supreme Court, Mr. Walker believes that the greatest care should be taken in preparing the defense to the suit. Special counsel will be engaged to assist the city. Mr. Walker will be aided by Assistant Corporation Counsel Mason and Fyfe.

William E. Mason was re-elected to the United States Senate Saturday afternoon after the most exciting election ever held in the Township of Thornton.

The polls were open from noon until 5 o'clock, and when they closed every member of the Cook County Republican Marching Club had registered his choice for Senator. Some registered their choice as many as a dozen times and not always for the same candidate.

The eighth annual picnic of the club, held in Thornton Park, was fixed upon as the time and place to settle the question which might trouble the Republican party of Illinois next year. While Senator Mason was declared elected, William Lorimer, H. S. Boutell, and Martin B. Madden had many friends at the polls and all received a heavy vote.

Sheriff E. J. Magerstadt was an easy winner of the contest to determine the most popular Republican holding an elective office in Cook County. H. S. Boutell was a close second, and Charles S. Denen third.